

The Reformer

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen



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June 2024

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Mark 2:27 says: "And Jesus said to them: The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath". I remember back when I was a child, one of the perplexing questions socially was whether or not a Christian can dance. Today, the same kind of question might be raised over other issues. We recognize that some conduct which may be legally permissible might not be morally or ethically proper for Christians. Throughout history there has been questionable attitudes concerning social attitudes

towards legalism verses permissiveness. Values and attitudes change over time and Christians find themselves at odds with society, as a whole.

Legalism does have a certain appeal, especially for those who desire explicit answers for every moral or ethical dilemma/issue. In some ways, life would be easier, but strict legalism could become an obstacle to faith. There may be situations where there might be conflicting laws or consequences creating additional dilemmas. For followers of Christ, human need takes precedence. Jesus puts it this way: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." It is the ultimate guideline for human relationships and moral conduct.

Jesus Loves the Little Children- and so do we ...

Celebrate our Sunday Church School Sunday, June 9th

Children's Day & Church Family Picnic

Service in the Sanctuary at 10 am

Followed by a Picnic on the Church Lawn

Join us - good food - fellowship - fun

Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages provided

- bring a covered dish if you wish -

For info, call the church office @ 845-331-2782

The Back Pew Clean Humor & God's Truth



2024 Graduates

Congratulations to Laura Van Aken graduating on May 12 from Quinnipiac University, Magna Cum Laude, with a BS in Psychology and Biology Minor. She will be continuing her education this Fall at the University of New Haven pursuing a Masters of Art in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.



Kathy and Michael Kinsch are proud to announce that their grandson Jackson Shahinfar will graduate from Albany High School on June 30th. He is the son of Noelle and Darius Shahinfar.

Jackson will be attending Boston University in the Fall and pursuing a degree in Medical Engineering



R.C.P.E. Yellow Pages

Data at your fingertips

Prayer Chain

Psalm 145:18

“The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.”

We amplify this power of prayer when we pray together.

To activate the chain for you or someone else, call Katherine Kinsch at 338-6378. That day, a team will be praying for you.

Confidentiality pledged.

Consistory Meets

*The 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM
Meetings open--call 331-2782 for agenda space.*

Next meeting June 11th

ELDERS

Matt Van Aken

Ray Wells

Linda McCarthy

DEACONS

Bonnie Lalor

Tom Gallagher

Monica Kelbaugh



Prayer List

(Prayers will stay on for one month unless notified otherwise)

World — Israel’s conflict, the Middle East, the innocent Palestinians, all of the people attacked in Israel, People of Ukraine, World Peace, Political Leaders, an end to the coronavirus, A solution for the refugee crisis, For all the homeless.

Church Worldwide — Religious persecution in Bangladesh, Persecuted Church (China, Nigeria, North Korea).

RCA — Sudan Mission, Oman Protestant Church and Bode Family, Al-Amada Center.

Mid-Hudson Classis — June & Bob Vanderlaan.

Petitions of healing, protection, and deliverance — Safe travels for the Brechter family, Brian Devine, Brie Bauer, Virginia Wonderly, Merle Alecca, Bob Warner, Matt Sutton, Jenny, Carol, Rena Beall, Tyson, Charles Barnett III.

Church Family — Monica Kelbaugh, Rev. Nick Miles, Jim Hadley, Bob Schlichting, Tom Gallagher, Janis Loring, Elnora McSpirit, Search Committee, Rhoda family, Bob Shelightner.

Homebound/nursing homes/institutions — John Lattieri, Bea Hogan, Marie Klippel.

Grieving — Family & friends of: Sandy McMahan, Eric Hansen, Anthony DiPaola, Bob Coisson, Linda Akins.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
to all the
DADS, STEPDADS & GRANDADS



June Birthdays

- 6 Ryleigh Goodrich
- 6 Karin Lamb
- 7 Daniel Helmer
- 14 Matthew Sutton
- 23 Kevin Slusher
- 24 Debra Bogossian
- 25 Cheri Van Deusen
- 25 Jim Hadley
- 26 Len Falcinelli

June Anniversaries

- 14 Ben & Debra Bogossian
- 22 Nick & Linda Miles
- 26 Shannon & Michael Goodrich
- 27 Ann & Jim Beukelman

July Birthdays

- 9 Jacqueline Stocker
- 14 Ben Bogossian
- 18 Beatrice Hogan
- 20 Joyce Pade
- 23 Glenn Knickerbocker
- 24 Melissa Banks
- 28 Ward Breithaupt



The Mission of the Month for June is the Bravo Center,

formerly known as The Pregnancy Support Center of Ulster County. It is affiliated with Care Net, an international organization of pregnancy centers, serving in Ulster County. They are a not-for-profit, non-partisan, Christian organization supported by individuals and churches. All of their services are free and confidential.

If you feel called to donate to this mission, please write checks to: Reformed Church of Port Ewen and write "June M.O.M." on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Also during the month of June....

RCPE will be collecting food donations for the *Ascension Holy Trinity Mission Center Food Pantry* in West Park.

There will be baskets in the sanctuary and downstairs by the church office for donations.

Items in particular need are condiments such as mayonnaise and catsup, cereals and pasta.

Non-perishable proteins such as canned tuna, chicken, salmon, beans etc. are always in need at this pantry.

Note: The Mission of the Month for April 2024 collected \$ 439.50

What does it mean to be a member of the Reformed Church?

You can find out! We are setting up an **Inquirers Class** led by Pastor Linda Miles. In this class you can learn more about what being a member of the Reformed Church of Port Ewen means. After the class, you can decide if you would like to become a member. No pressure.

If you are interested in the class please let me know. We will decide on a time and date together.

Bonnie Lalor Bmomlador2@aol.com 845-417-3504

Stewardship Moment

Day 8 – Train your children to be generous

Psalm 78:4-7

- 4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell
the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
His power, and the wonders He has done.
- 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel,
which He commanded our forefathers to teach their children,
- 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be
born, and they in turn would tell their children.
- 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds
but, would keep His commands.

In passages like this one in Psalm 78, the people of Israel were told to pass along the things they experienced of the Lord. They were to tell of His salvation, His mighty works, and how those things affected them in the present. Though we live in a different time and under different circumstances, parents have a similar responsibility today. Where Israel was to tell of their great rescue from slavery in the house of Egypt, today we tell of the great rescue from sin and death Christ accomplished. And where Israel taught their children how to live a life of faith and worship in accordance to the Law, parents today teach their children how to live a life of generosity in light of the wealth that has been lavished out upon them in the Gospel.

Parents have the opportunity and responsibility to raise their children to live godly lives. It is an opportunity because they have the chance to raise their children in righteousness and to guide them away from the mistakes they themselves made in their own lives. It is a responsibility—a stewardship of lives—in that they are called to pass along the teachings of righteousness and godliness they have learned from the Scriptures. One way to do this is in teaching children, by word and practice, what it means to live generously in light of God's remarkable salvation. For better or worse, children learn from their parents, both from what they hear them say and from what they see them do. Children learn from parents the way they are, or are not, willing to sacrifice for others. They learn from their parents how to be, or not be, hospitable. They learn from their parents' things that they will shape their perspective for the rest of their lives.

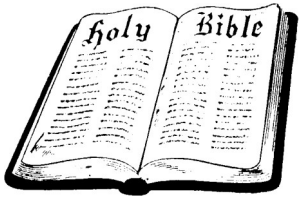
Do your children value generosity? Do they know the joy of making someone else happy? Do they know the satisfaction of giving to meet someone else's needs? Your example could set them on a path of generosity that blesses people for years to come. The example you set in your generosity could be multiplied in all the lives of all the people your child will encounter for the rest of their life. Enjoy the privilege. Cherish the responsibility.

Today's Generosity Challenge:

Start a discussion around the breakfast table this morning (or the dinner table tonight or even via an email, if your children are grown and out of the house) and ask them to define generosity. Write down their answers for Day 8 here at <http://GenerorousLife.net/Day8>. Prayerfully, consider what they understand intuitively and in what areas do you need to teach your family generously.

* Michael L. Stickler, *A Journey to Generosity (41 Days to a Generous Life)* the Visiongroup Ltd. 2013. Pages 25-26

Lectionary Scripture Readings for June 2024



First reading

Second reading

Gospel

And Psalm

June 2, 2024 1Samuel 3:1-10 / Psalm 139:1-10 / 2Corinthians 4:5-12 / Mark 2:23-3:6

June 9, 2024 1Samuel 8:4-20 / Psalm 138 / 2Corinthians 4:13-5:1 / Mark 3:20-35

June 16, 2024 1Samuel 15:34-6:13 / Psalm 20 or 72 / 2Corinthians 5:6-10 / Mark 4:26-34

June 23, 2024 1Samuel 17:32-49 / Psalm 9:9-20 / 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 / Mark 4:35-41

June 30, 2024 2Samuel 1:1, 17-27 / Psalm 130 / 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 / Mark 5:21-43

MOVIES WITH SPIRIT

June 15, ALL THAT BREATHES (2022), Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely, 101 Leggett Road, Stone Ridge — An immersive documentary about two brothers, Saud and Nadeem, in New Delhi who set up a makeshift bird hospital in their tiny basement to care for injured black kite birds, many harmed by humans and climate change. A Muslim belief holds that feeding kites expels troubles. The birds, related to hawks and eagles, are literally falling from the sky because New Delhi's air is so smoggy. As environmental toxicity and civil unrest escalate, the relationship between these brothers and the neglected kites forms a poetic chronicle of the city's collapsing ecology and rising social tensions. *"A meditation on the interconnectedness of life."* — Michael O'Sullivan, The Washington Post. *"There is no denying the movie's power."* — Manohla Dargis, The New York Times. *"Poetic, intensely beautiful."* — Maxwell Rabb, Chicago Reader. *In Hindi with English subtitles. Not*



Revs Nick and Linda Miles will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 22nd. They are planning a celebratory luncheon at the *Port Ewen Reformed Church* from 12 to 2pm on that day. We would love to see you celebrate with us. There will be Native American drumming and dancing. No gifts, please, but if you feel the urge, make a donation to *Seed Song Farm*, 160 Esopus Ave. Kingston NY 12401, or a charity of your choice.

Consistory Highlights for May 14, 2024

The Church Life Committee from Classis met with the Consistory as part of Classis outreach to member churches. The goal of these visits is to identify joys and concerns of the congregations which make up the Classis of Mid Hudson, and what assistance might be offered by Classis.

The Mission of the Month for June will be the Bravo Pregnancy Support Center and a food drive to benefit the West Park Food Pantry.

Plans are being finalized for the celebration of Children's Day followed by a Church Family Picnic scheduled for June 9. The church will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, and there is a sign up sheet in FH for salads and desserts.

Website improvements are ongoing, as are the repairs to the organ pedals.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

June 2024

As of May 23rd, the committee has two candidates who we feel merit consideration. An initial interview will be conducted on May 31st with one candidate and it is possible the second candidate will also be interviewed. Keep praying!

The mission of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is to provide a tangible reminder of God's love to those in need. The making of a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice which embodies our thoughts and prayers for the receiver. It is a gift freely given with no strings attached. Made in prayer, as prayer, for prayer, the shawls are passed on hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, and bring hope to those in despair. They may also be made to celebrate life and its milestones.

Joyce Pade has many prayer shawls. If you would like to give one to someone in need, please see her or call the church office.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Should Christians celebrate Father's Day?

Father's Day is a day set apart to celebrate fatherhood, recognize the influence of fathers in our homes and society, and foster paternal bonds. It is also celebrated to honor and commemorate our fathers and forefathers. While it is celebrated in the U.S. on the third Sunday of June, in many other countries the officially recognized date of Father's Day varies. It is believed that Father's Day was first observed on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington, through the efforts of Sonora Smart Dodd, a Christian woman and the daughter of American Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart. Sonora's mother died when she was age 16, and she wanted a day that would commemorate and honor fathers like her own, who had raised her and five other children. Once she began soliciting the idea of an official Father's Day, she met some opposition and even derision, but she persevered. A bill was introduced in Congress in 1913, and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson spoke at a Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington, wanting to make it an official holiday, but Congress still resisted. In 1924, Calvin Coolidge became involved, and in 1930 a national committee was formed by various trade groups in an effort to legitimize the holiday. The battle continued, and in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson made a proclamation for the third Sunday of June to be Father's Day. Finally, it was made an official national holiday when President Nixon signed a similar proclamation in 1972.



While God's Word is silent about any day being set aside specifically to honor fathers, the Bible does recognize a special place of honor for men who were leaders or examples of excellence in certain skills, such as Jabal, who was "the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock" and his brother Jubal, who was "the father of all who play the harp and flute" (Genesis 4:20-21). Also, when Abram's name was changed to Abraham, God told him, "I have made you a father of many nations" (Genesis 17:5), clearly indicating fatherhood as a place of honor in His eyes. Thus, even though the Bible does not mention a Father's Day, we can clearly see that God does recognize the importance of fathers and even gave them special honor throughout history.

Furthermore, we can follow this theme of fatherhood in the very person of God Himself through countless scriptures (Matthew 5:45; 6:9,32; Romans 1:7; 15:6; 1 Corinthians 8:6). There are many instances that speak of Jesus Christ, the Son, honoring His Father and honoring the will of His Father (e.g., John 17:1 and John 17:5). The apostle Paul taught that to honor one's earthly father is not only a commandment but the first commandment that, when obeyed, has a promise of things going well and living long on the earth. "Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth" (Ephesians 6:2-3). In light of these verses, and many others, it would seem to be perfectly God-honoring to celebrate a day in which fathers, the God-given spiritual head of the family, could and should be honored. Ultimately, whether or not to celebrate a specific day or holiday is a matter of personal preference. We have the freedom to celebrate and the freedom not to celebrate if we so choose.

“Bridging Culture, Christianity, Spice, Trade, and Travel” – a 4-part series

- I. Trade Routes
- II. St. Thomas, the Apostle
- III. Spices & the Middle Ages
- IV. A Travelogue

I have been so deeply inspired recently by a number of events, all with surprising connections, coming together in my world. The inspiration has led me to research and collect a vast amount of data; as such I have developed this article, in four parts, which I now present to you. I am thrilled to share with you, “Bridging Cultures, Christianity, Spices, Trade and Travel,” for your reading pleasure. Anita D. Hadley March 2024

III. Spices & Middle Ages – Destination India

The Spice Route flourished for centuries as Explorers from western Europe led the pack. The East-West trade routes were busy, requiring further exploration and improvements at every turn.

For the European visionaries of the 15th and 16th centuries, developing means of bringing the exotic spices from the far east, primarily India, was becoming rather essential, and highly profitable. The explorers and their backers envisioned *the day* and *the way*.

[Columbus, seeking a better route to India, headed west, made a wrong turn in the process (mapping error!), and the rest, as they say, is *history*!]

Vasco da Gama was the first to make the discovery that sailing around the Cape of Good Hope led more directly to the heart of Malabar Coast of India and its rich, sought-after spices. -- Black Pepper at the top of the list. da Gama is locally recognized in Cochin, where his remains once laid entombed. The Church of St. Francis, located in an area known as Fort Cochin, houses a cordoned-off area, with a plaque that describes this noted explorer’s visits and connections to this part of India. His remains have since been moved to Portugal, to da Gama’s birthplace and family home location.

Attesting to its importance from ancient times to the present day, the spice trade has shaped economies, sparked exploration, and connected cultures across the globe.

Here’s a brief overview of the history of spice routes and their impact on cultural exchange:

Ancient Spice Trade: The spice trade has a long history, dating back to ancient times. Spices like cinnamon, pepper, and ginger were highly valued in the ancient world and were traded across the Middle East and Asia.

Silk Road: The Silk Road was a network of trade routes that connected China to the Mediterranean world, and was an important conduit for the exchange of goods and ideas between East and West. Spices were among the most valuable commodities traded along the Silk Road.

Arab Traders: Arab traders played a key role in the spice trade, serving as intermediaries between Asian producers and European buyers. Arab traders were responsible for transporting spices from India to the Middle East and Europe.

Portuguese Explorers: In the 15th century, Portuguese explorers began to explore new trade routes to Asia. They eventually established a direct sea route from Europe to Asia, bypassing Arab traders and opening up the spice trade to European merchants.



(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 9)

Dutch East India Company: The Dutch East India Company became a dominant force in the spice trade in the 17th century, establishing a monopoly on the trade of nutmeg and cloves in the Moluccas.

Impact on Cultural Exchange: The spice trade had a significant impact on cultural exchange, as it brought together people from different parts of the world and facilitated the exchange of ideas, goods, and technologies. For example, the introduction of spices like cinnamon and nutmeg to Europe had a profound impact on European cuisine and led to the development of new dishes and flavor combinations.

Overall, the spice routes played a crucial role in shaping the course of world history -- they helped to foster broad cultural exchanges, the spread of Christianity, (as well, many other religious ideologies), and entice an amazing appetite for further exploration. We observe, of course, that we continue to follow some majorly essential trade routes – the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal, and the English Channel in our contemporary world; we rely heavily for safe and unimpeded passage on these waterways.

The spice trade represents a remarkable chapter in human history, driven by the desire for unique flavors, wealth, and exploration. The spice trade has left an indelible mark on the world. It has not only connected people and cultures but has also shaped economies, ignited exploration, and fostered cultural/religious exchange.

So, the next time you savor the warmth of cinnamon in a comforting dessert or experience the fiery kick of black pepper in a vibrant dish, remember the journey that these spices have taken. They carry with them the stories of ancient civilizations, the brave explorers, and the interconnectedness of our world.



[For more information on the mental and emotional enhancements that various spices provide, go to: <https://spicestationsilverlake.com/how-spices-can-enhance-mental-and-emotional-well-being/>]

Pedal Pipe Repairs...

Here are some new photos provided by the Rosenberry and Myers organ builders. We are nearing completion!



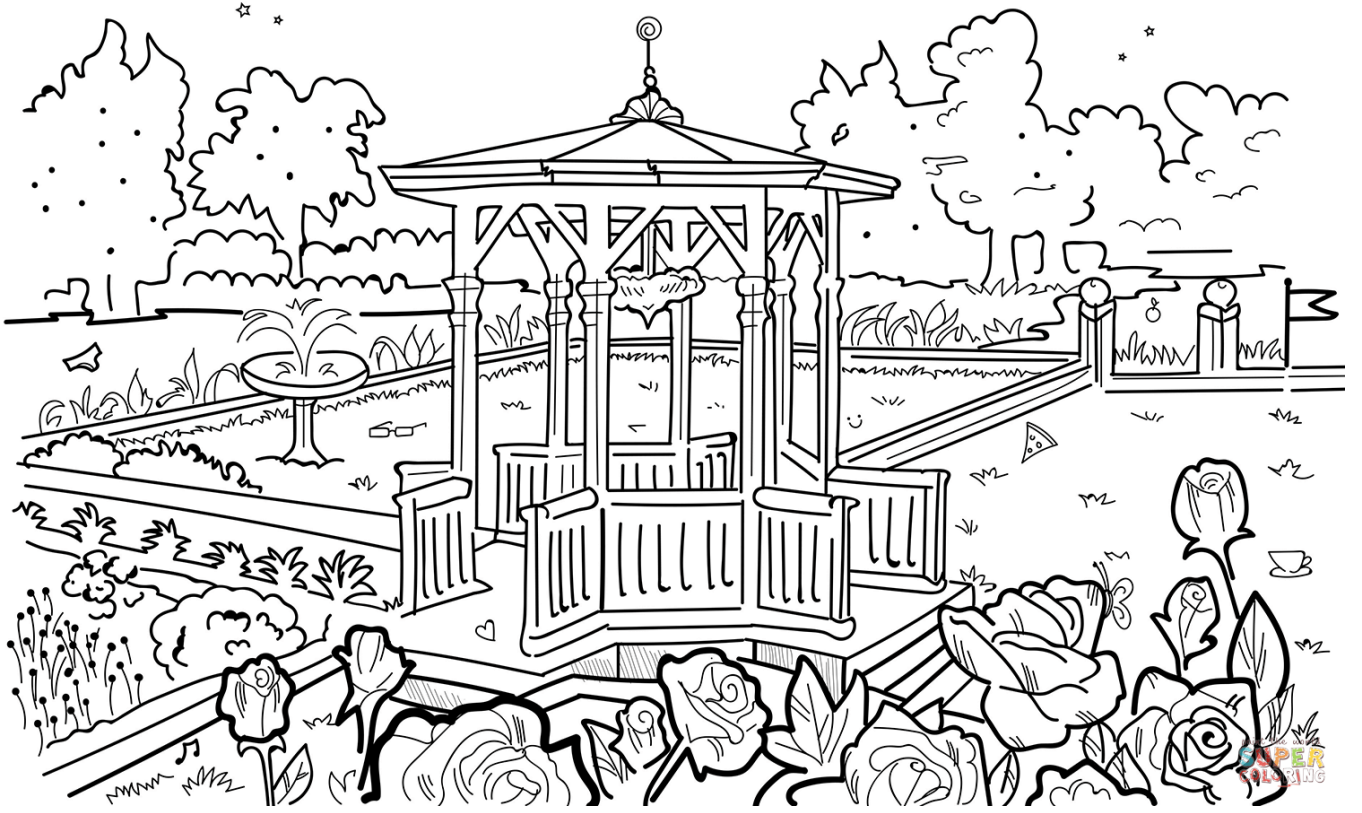
The refurbished pedal wind chest.
The pipes sit inside this organ



The photo at left shows some of our pipes being tuned in the shop. They will be retuned in place once they are installed.

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	3 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm Brownies (SCS)	4	5 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA	6	7	8
9 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship followed by picnic 3-9 pm Private (FH)	10	11 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting (Library)	12 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA	13	14	15
16 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	17 5:30-7:00 pm Girl Scouts (SCS) 5:30-7:00 pm	18	19 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA	20 REFORMER	21 5-9:30 pm ANA Mtg (FH)	22 12-2 pm Rev. Miles Anniversary (FH)
23 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)	24	25	26 12:30 pm Bible Study 4-9:30 pm SCA	27	28	29
30 9:00 am SCS 10:00 am Worship 2-4 pm 4-H (FH) 5-8 pm AA (FH)						



Our facilities are handicapped accessible

We're on the net!
www.rcpe.info

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